

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A laser arrangement to produce a plurality of amplified laser pulses, comprising:

a common arm including a pump unit having a pumped laser crystal, the pump unit being configured to generate a plurality of laser pulses;

~~mode-locking and amplifying arms; and~~

a first resonator arm including a passive mode-locking arrangement configured to passively mode-lock phases of the laser pulses;

a second resonator arm active in an amplifying phase and being free of components that introduce losses; and

a switching arrangement arranged and operative to selectively connect the common arm to one of the resonator arms, and controllable to optically switch the laser pulses between the common arm and one of the ~~mode-locking and amplifying resonator~~ arms, the common arm and the mode-locking arm forming a first resonator arm, the common arm and the amplifying arm forming a second resonator arm, the mode-locking arm including a passive mode-locking arrangement configured to passively mode-lock phases of the laser pulses, the amplifying arm being free of components that introduce losses;

wherein, during a pulse forming phase, the switching arrangement is controlled to switch the laser pulses between the common arm and the ~~mode-locking~~ first resonator arm to mode-lock the phases of the laser pulses ~~on the first resonator arm~~, and during an amplifying stage, the switching arrangement is controlled to switch the laser pulses between the common arm and the ~~amplifying~~ arm to amplify the mode-locked laser pulses ~~on the second resonator arm, thereby producing to produce~~ the amplified laser pulses.

13. (Currently Amended) The laser arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the switching arrangement includes a first polarization-sensitive beam divider optically coupled to

the ~~mode-locking and amplifying resonator~~ arms, and further including a polarization rotating arrangement optically coupled to the beam divider and to the common arm, the polarization rotating arrangement being controllable to rotate a polarization of the laser pulses to switch the laser pulses of the common arm between one of the ~~mode-locking and amplifying resonator~~ arms.

14. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 13, wherein the polarization rotating arrangement is a Pockels cell.

15. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 13, wherein the common arm includes a second polarization-sensitive beam divider arranged in a path of the laser pulses to couple out the amplified laser pulses.

16. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the passive mode-locking arrangement includes a saturable absorber.

17. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 16, wherein the saturable absorber is a saturable semiconductor absorber.

18. (Currently Amended) The laser arrangement according to claim 16, wherein the saturable absorber is arranged to terminate the ~~mode-locking~~ first resonator arm.

19. (Currently Amended) The laser arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the ~~mode-locking~~ first resonator arm includes a linear loss element causing a high energy accumulation in the pumped laser crystal.

20. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the linear loss element includes a 1/4 platelet.

21. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the pump unit is a continuous wave diode pump unit.

22. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 12, further comprising a pumping arrangement configured to pump the pumped laser crystal.

23. (Previously Presented) The laser arrangement according to claim 22, wherein the pumping arrangement includes one of a lamp-pump arrangement and a laser-pump arrangement.
